

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Claims 10-16, 18, and 24-35 are allowed.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank Agovino (Reg No 27,416) on 10/23/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims, please amend:

Claim 10. (currently amended) A system for conducting a multimedia conference, comprising:

a plurality of participants each providing multimedia conferencing data including a video signal and an audio signal;

a client in conference with the plurality of participants, the client capable of receiving the video signal corresponding to one of the plurality of participants at a time;

a participant selection control parameter stored in a memory for tuning a video switching stream behavior, wherein the participant selection control parameter affects the an outcome of a weight computation, said participant selection control parameter received when the multimedia conference is set up, said participant control selection parameter having a static display constraint on a selection of a video signal;

a participant state table stored in a memory and indicating an activity state variable for each of the plurality of participants, said activity state variable including values and statistics associated with ~~the participant's~~ each of the plurality of participants' video signal and audio signal; and

a bridge server connected to the plurality of participants through a network and having a point-to-point connection with the client, the bridge server assigning a predetermined weight to at least one of the plurality of participants for a duration specified by the static display constraint, receiving simultaneously the multimedia conferencing data including the video signal from each of the plurality of participants, updating the activity state variable stored in the memory for each of the plurality of participants in the participant state table according to changes in ~~the a~~ data information and ~~the a~~ control information of ~~the participant's~~ each of the plurality of participants' video signal and audio signal, periodically computing a weight of said each of the plurality of participants based on the activity state variable of said each of the plurality of participants and the participant selection control parameter, identifying a participant having a highest weight among the plurality of participants, and selecting from the received multimedia conferencing data the video signal corresponding to the identified participant having the highest weight for transmission to the client for viewing.

In claim 11, please replace "A system as in claim 10," to "The system of claim 10,".

In claim 12, please replace "A system as in claim 10," to "The system of claim 10,".

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In claim 13, please replace "A system as in claim 10," to "The system of claim 10,".

In claim 14, please replace "A system as in claim 13," to "The system of claim 13,".

In claim 15, please replace "A system as in claim 14," to "The system of claim 14,".

In claim 16, please replace "A system as in claim 15," to "The system of claim 15,".

In claim 18, please replace "A system as in claim 10," to "The system of claim 10,".

Claim 24. (currently amended) A method for selecting one video signal from a plurality of video signals for forwarding to a client, each video signal corresponding to a participant of multiple participants of a multimedia conference, said method comprising:

when the multimedia conference is being set up, receiving a participant selection control parameter for the multimedia conference, said participant selection control parameter having a static display constraint of selecting the one video signal;

assigning a predetermined weight to at least one of the multiple participants for a duration specified by the static display constraint;

receiving simultaneously a multimedia conferencing data from the multiple participants, the multimedia ~~conference~~ conferencing data including the plurality of video signals from the multiple participants;

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monitoring participant events of the multimedia conference, said participant events associated with the multimedia conferencing data of the multiple participants, said participant events being generated in response to changes in ~~the~~ a data information and ~~the~~ a control information of the multimedia conferencing data received from the multiple participants;

providing a participant state table associated with the multimedia conference indicating an activity state variable for each participant of the multimedia conference, said activity state variable including values and statistics associated with the participant's multimedia conference data;

updating at least one of the activity state variables in the participant state table according to the participant events;

periodically computing a weight for each of the multiple participants based on the activity state variable of said each participant and the participant selection control parameter;

identifying a participant having a highest weight among the multiple participants;
and

selecting from the received multimedia conferencing data the one video signal corresponding to the identified participant having the highest weight for viewing by the client.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ASAD M. NAWAZ whose telephone number is (571)272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 6-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Asad M Nawaz/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2455